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[*on the report of the First Committee (A/72/410)*]

72/63. Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 71/79 of 5 December 2016,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the Central Africa subregion,

Recalling that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

Reaffirming the importance and relevance of the Standing Advisory Committee as an instrument of preventive diplomacy in the subregional architecture for the promotion of peace and security in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee decided upon at the forty-fourth meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé from 29 May to 2 June 2017, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Noting the entry into force of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly

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(Kinshasa Convention) on 8 March 2017,[1] and also the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2017,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Welcoming the Libreville Declaration on the adoption and implementation of the regional strategy and plan of action for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 26 November 2015 at their forty-first ministerial meeting, held in Libreville from 23 to 27 November 2015,[2]

Also welcoming the adoption, at the forty-fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, of the plan of action and schedule for the implementation of the regional strategy under the auspices of the Economic Community of Central African States,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[3] the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa[4] and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,[5]

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[6]

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, the inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014, of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea, the effective commencement of its activities with the installation of its statutory officials in Yaoundé on 22 February 2017, the inauguration of new offices of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa in Pointe Noire, Congo, on 20 October 2014, and the launch of the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre in Cotonou, Benin, in March 2015, and also the conclusion of the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, held in Lomé on 15 October 2016,

Recalling its resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015, the first such resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, and also its resolutions 70/301 of 9 September 2016 and 71/326 of 11 September 2017, and welcoming the outcome of the high-

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[1] See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

[2] See A/70/682-S/2016/39, annex 3.

[3] A/50/474, annex I.

[4] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

[5] A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

[6] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, hosted by Gabon and Germany and held on the margins of the high-level segments of the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and taking note in this regard of the concrete conflict prevention initiatives facilitated by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the close cooperation established between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as the signing of a new framework of cooperation agreement between the two entities on 14 June 2016,

Bearing in mind the increased focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention, and welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[1] following the high-level meeting on the appraisal of the United Nations global plan of action to combat trafficking in persons,

Welcoming the holding of the presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic, which led to the re-establishment of the constitutional order with the election of a President and the formation of a new Government, and taking note in that context of the reinstatement of the Central African Republic as a member of the African Union on 7 April 2016,

Expressing continued concern about the fragile situation in the Central African Republic and in the neighbouring countries affected, and noting the importance of promoting the political process, including through rationalization of the multiple peace initiatives, in order to make tangible progress, in particular with regard to protection of civilians, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, and strengthening the authority of the State,

Expressing concern about the increasing impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, the terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region and incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, on peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Welcoming the progress made by the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in making the Multinational Joint Task Force operational in order to effectively combat the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group to the Lake Chad Basin region, and taking note of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union to support the Task Force,

Also welcoming the visit made by the Security Council to the countries of the Lake Chad Basin region from 2 to 7 March 2017, and welcoming resolution 2349 (2017) of 31 March 2017 adopted by the Council at the end of the visit, in which the Council called for, inter alia, increased assistance to the countries of the region,

Considering the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons, mercenaries and combatants involved in conflicts in the Sahel and in neighbouring countries in the Central African subregion,

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[1] Resolution 72/1.

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Welcomes* the measures taken at the forty-fourth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa with a view to revitalizing the work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the adoption of a more dynamic agenda and the strengthening of synergies between the Committee and the Economic Community of Central African States and the new format for ministerial meetings, including closed meetings, and takes note of the institutionalization of the role of the Committee focal point to ensure follow-up of the recommendations concerning the competent national institutions;

3. *Welcomes and encourages* the initiative of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to develop collaboration and synergies with the Economic Community of Central African States and organs of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, in particular the Commission for Defence and Security, including with a view to promoting the implementation of the regional strategy for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa adopted by the Committee;

4. *Encourages* the Standing Advisory Committee decision to develop a communications strategy in order to increase its visibility, including among the populations of the subregion, in cooperation with civil society;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms control programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

6. *Encourages* Member States to provide assistance to those States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty,[8] and encourages those that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty;

7. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention),[1] and encourages States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and other interested States to provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to convene the first Conference of States Parties to the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 3, of the Kinshasa Convention, and requests States parties to inform him of the logistical details, including the venue of the meeting, the composition of the bureau and the source of funding for the meeting;

9. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to assist States parties in the organization of the first Conference of States Parties and in coordination activities for the control of small arms and light weapons at the regional and national level, including funding thereof, as expeditiously as possible;

10. *Encourages* States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to provide assistance to the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States, as the mechanism for the coordination and implementation of the Convention

[8] See resolution 67/234 B.

at the subregional level, with a view to carrying out related activities in accordance with articles 29 and 31 of the Convention;

11. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to implement the Libreville Declaration on the adoption and implementation of the regional strategy and plan of action for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the international community to support those measures;

12. *Urges* the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States to implement the integrated strategy and plan of action for combating terrorism and the trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to support the efforts of States members of the Economic Community of Central African States in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, in coordination with the African Union Commission, to accelerate joint efforts to adopt a comprehensive strategy to more effectively and urgently combat the threat posed by Boko Haram, and in this regard urges the two subregional organizations to convene their joint summit at the earliest opportunity in order to adopt a common strategy and develop active cooperation and coordination;

14. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings;

15. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo in providing assistance, respectively, to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, and urges other member States to honour their financial commitments in order to ensure the predictable and sustainable operation of the two Centres;

17. *Encourages* Member States to continue to implement the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea by operationalizing the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and activities of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, and also encourages the implementation of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa adopted at the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;

18. *Calls upon* Member States and subregional bodies to take immediate concerted action to counter the phenomenon of poaching and trafficking in wildlife, including through the implementation of the provisions of its resolutions 69/314, 70/301 and 71/326;

19. *Expresses its full support* for the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations in the Central African Republic, and calls upon the international community to support these efforts;

20. *Requests* the Security Council to consider strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in order to reinforce and support the internal security forces and the defence forces of the Central African Republic in coordination with the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic in their efforts to stabilize the country, including in the east, in the context of combating the Lord's Resistance Army and other armed groups;

21. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to pursue their discussions on concrete conflict prevention initiatives, and requests in this regard the assistance of the Secretary-General;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention;[9]

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

25. *Welcomes* the increased contributions made by several Member States to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, reminds the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments they undertook on the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on 8 May 2009[10] and the Bangui Declaration on 10 June 2016,[11] and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the Trust Fund;

26. *Urges* other States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security, in line with the Sao Tome Declaration on the participation of women in the statutory meetings of the Committee, adopted on 1 December 2016,[12] whereby States members were invited to increase the "representation of women in delegations participating in the statutory meetings of the Committee";

28. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support to the Standing Advisory Committee, expresses appreciation for the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, welcomes the strengthening of the Office, and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office;

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[9] See A/65/717-S/2011/53, annex.

[10] A/64/85-S/2009/288, annex I.

[11] A/71/293, annex I.

[12] A/72/363, annex II.

29. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including activities of Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the fallout from the situation in the Central African Republic, and also welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

30. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings;

31. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

62nd plenary meeting
4 December 2017